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Smith's gross and unexaminable accounts and the abuses of the government. Entreats their Lordships to aid in obtaining a commission from his Maj. for the rectifying, examining & ordering said Government, that thereby the petitioner may be relieved, the public wrongs redressed and such a form settled that doing right to all parties interested in the plantation, it may fix the government of Virginia in a dependency on the crown of England. That there is a learned treatise by Ignotus concerning the Govern^t of Virginia, to which the Court hath given good allowance, and which petitioner entreats may likewise be brought in, that there may be no help wanting to give furtherance to this noble business or conduce to the attaining of this last end of holding the plantation to England. (*Colonial Papers*, Vol. 2, No. 4, I.)

Kidnapping Maidens, to be Sold in Virginia, 1618.

(Abstract, from English Pub. Record Office, by W. N. Sainsbury.)

[Kidnapping persons to be sold as servants in the Colonies, or inducing them, under false pretenses to emigrate, was a crime flagrant during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. Mr. Bruce (*Economic History of Virginia in the 17th Century*, I, 613-618) discusses, with his usual thoroughness of research, the subject as regards the earlier century. In the later, though the evil was probably lessened by advancing civilization, it was by no means put an end to. In the novels and drama of the period, it has a place, along with impressment for the navy, as a favorite method for the villain of the plot to rid himself of a person who stands in his way. The most famous case which occurred in Great Britain was the abduction of James Annesly, son of Lord Altham, in 1728. Though there was a doubt as to the boy's legitimacy, his uncle, Richard, thought him so dangerous that he contrived to have him carried to Pennsylvania, and sold to a planter named Drummond, of Newcastle. In 1743 he managed to return to Ireland, and laid claim to the title and estates. In an ejectment suit for the latter he was successful in 1743, but

did not have the means to pursue his claim further. The affair created great sensation at the time, and has obtained a permanent place in literature. Besides a number of pamphlets, there is a long account in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. XIII. The case was introduced into *Peregrine Pickle*, was used by Scott in *Guy Mannering*, and Jas. Annesly is the hero of Chas. Reade's *Wandering Heir*.]

1618, Oct. 19, Nethersham.

Sir Edward Hext, Justice of the Peace of Somerset to the Privy Council, Complaint having been made to him that one Owen Evans, had commanded the constable of the hundred of Whitleighe and others to press him divers maidens to be sent to the Bermudas and Virginia, he issued a warrant for his apprehension. Evans on being examined said he was a messenger of the Chamber and showed his badge of office. The constable affirmed that said Owen required him in His M. name to press him five maidens with all speed for the service aforesaid, and on demanding to see his commission reviled and threatened that he should answer it in another place—Another affirmed that Evans delivered 5^s to one and 12^d to another to press six maidens, and to a third he delivered his badge and required him to press some maidens, else would he procure him to be hanged—Sends an acquittance inclosed—Evans confessed all, and that he had no commission at all and so fell upon his knees and humbly confessed his fault. Has committed him to gaol. His undue proceedings breed such terror to the poor maidens as forty of them fled out of one parish into such obscure and remote places as their parents and masters can yet have no news what is become of them. (*Correspondence Domestic, James 1st*, Vol. 103, No. 42.)

Inclosure.

1618, Oct. 19.

Receipt of "Owen Evans of the Court of England" to William Michell of Ottery for ten shillings of English money for freeing the parrish of Ottery from his Commission of pressing of maidens for his Maj. service for the Bermudas and Virginia, signed with his mark and duly witnessed, 1618, October 17. (*Correspond. Domestic, James I*, Vol. 103, No. 42, I.)

1618, Nov. 13, Nethersham.

Sir Edward Hext Justice of the Peace of Somerset to the Privy Council. Has according to their Lordships commands, delivered to this Bearer Owen Evans, lately committed by him (see *ante*, Oct., 1618) with examinations concerning his offence—Explains that in regard Evans was H. M. servant, he had him cleanly lodged and well dieted while in gaol, and that he examined him as to what service he had to do for his Majesty—Assures their Lordships that Evans undue carriage in this matter hath bred much grief and great prejudice to the people of these parts. As many young women of several parishes round about the parrish of Ottery as heard of it, flying in like manner from their parents and masters. (*Domestic Corresp.*, *James 1st*, Vol. 103, No. 87.)

Inclosure.

1618, Nov. 13.

Examinations of Francis Prewé, of Ottery, Thomas Crocker, William Mitchell and John Watts, taken before Sir Edward Hext the 16th and 31st of October, 1618. In reference to the proceedings of Owen Evans in endeavoring to press Maidens to be sent to the Bermudas and Virginia—that same bred such terror as above forty young women fled out of the parish of Ottery and were not yet to be found : that he threatened Prewé should answer his conduct in another place, if he failed, that Thomas Crocker should be hanged in the morning if he failed to press him some maidens, that Michell compounded with Evans for ten shillings to be free : and that Evans gave John Watts four shillings to press him four maidens and bring them to him at Sherborne Co., Dorset, and twelve pence to one Jacob Cryste to press Evans his [Cryste's] daughter. (*Correspondence Domestic*, *James 1st*, Vol. 103, No. 87, I.)